

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stamper holder for being mounted in a mold of a mold assembly that molds a substrate for an information recording medium, together with a flat disk-shaped stamper having a molding surface for forming micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the information recording medium, when the stamper holder is fitted in an insertion hole extending through a central portion of the stamper, wherein the stamper holder is configured such that an outer periphery of the stamper holder has a gradually an increased diameter from an end of ~~on a side toward~~ the molding surface toward an end of ~~compared with a reverse side thereof~~ to form a sloped surface, such that ~~part or all of an entire~~ outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder opposite to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole has a shape complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper.

2. (Currently Amended) A mold component for being mounted in a mold of a mold assembly that molds a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:
a flat disk-shaped stamper having a molding surface for forming micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the information recording medium and having

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an insertion hole extending through a central portion thereof; an inner peripheral surface of the central portion that defines the insertion hole comprising a sloped surface which has a larger diameter on the molding surface side compared with a diameter on an opposite side; and

a stamper holder configured such that an outer periphery of the stamper holder has a gradually increased diameter from an end of the molding surface toward an end of a reverse side to form a sloped surface and to fit in the insertion hole extending through the central portion of the stamper, thereby holding the stamper, ~~part or all~~ an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder opposite to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole has a shape complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper.

3. (Previously Presented) A mold component as claimed in claim 2, wherein the stamper holder is configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface.

4. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly that molds a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:

a mold; and

a mold component configured to be mounted in the mold, the mold component comprising:

a flat disk-shaped stamper having a molding surface for forming micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the information recording medium and having

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an insertion hole extending through a central portion thereof; an inner peripheral surface of the central portion that defines the insertion hole comprising a sloped surface which has a larger diameter on the molding surface side compared with a diameter on an opposite side; and

a stamper holder configured such that an outer periphery of the stamper holder has a gradually increased diameter from an end of the molding surface toward an end of a reverse side to form a sloped surface and to fit in the insertion hole extending through the central portion of the stamper, thereby holding the stamper, and ~~part or all~~ of an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder opposite to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole has a shape complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper.

5. (Previously Presented) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stamper holder is configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)